

# Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

MAY 2009

## ARRL GA Section Manager to step aside at end of term

Georgia on my mind..... and pollen on my little red car. Greetings, fellow hams-ters. Coming at-choo in this beautiful spring weather from Gwinnett county, the Big Wheezy, where, on a Claritan day, you can see forever. (OK, I'll stop now!)

Shortly after I became SM, Al Friend, W4CF, warned me, rather solemnly, that I needed to "slow down" with my SM activities, or I'd run the risk of burning out. Well, I haven't slowed down, and I haven't burned out, but to tell you the truth, my flame is definitely starting to flicker a bit. Then, recently the AJC ran a couple of articles in which they described a person as being "elderly", and much to my chagrin, the person they were describing was MY age! (Tell ya what, that's enough to make you stop and think!) And then there's that whole bucket list thing, ya know...?

Anyway, the bottom line is, I've been sitting on the fence, just a-hemming and a-hawing for way too long now, and the time has come for me to hop down off of that fence, snap out of it, and make a decision. So I have. Without a doubt, serving as your SM has been an honor and a



*Members of the Atlanta Radio Club gathered recently at the Red Cross Headquarters on Monroe Drive to participate in Georgia QSO Party. Talk of the upcoming Fox Hunt in Walton County and Field Day were hot topics*

glorious adventure, but I've decided that I'm not going to run for another term. It's time to pass the reins into someone else's hands now. A million thanks to all of you who have served with me for these past four terms, and most especially to our fantastic OOC, and my better half, **MIKE SWIDERSKI, K4HBI**. I couldn't have

*(Continued on page 2)*

## New Club by-laws on the way

"New" by-laws is perhaps an overstatement. What the committee has attempted to do is modernize while not losing the unique character of the club. The purpose of these changes has been to clear up verbiage that was confusing or contradictory, simplify the rules, and modernize some aspects of how the club does business.

One change is the way the club accepts new members. When founded acceptance included tests to make sure the prospective new member was Morse code proficient and knowledgeable enough to be a member, to operate the club station, and so on. With the new rules an applicant pays their dues and is announced at the next meeting, no more voting in or out (who was ever not voted in?). This one change allows the club to modernize the application process, and allows the club to post reminders and collect annual renewals on line.

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## Inside this issue...

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## THE ATLANTA HAM

The **Atlanta HAM** is the official bulletin of The Atlanta Radio Club serving its members and the Atlanta community. Original articles, art, and photos are welcome. Copyrighted material cannot be printed without permission from the appropriate legal authority. Please include such disclaimers in all materials submitted.

Submit articles:

John Talipsky N3ACK  
385 Madison Chase Dr  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!

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## Mike Swass, KJ6XE, Owner of Lakewview Company has become a SK

Mike Swass KJ6XE owner of Lakeview Company The Hamstick folks has become a silent key. Mike was a great guy and an active amateur operator. Many of us knew Mike from the many Hamfests he attended around the country including our Atlanta Hamfest. Lakeview Company, maker of the "HamStick" mobile antennas, was purchased by Mike Swass in 2002. The company is located in Anderson, South Carolina. Founded by George A Shira Jr, WD4BUM, Lakeview had been run by Butch Shira, WA4XXX before Mike purchased it. He had a giving nature and a great sense of humor, he helped many hams out with antenna issues that they couldn't get answers anywhere else. He was an active member of the Anderson radio club and was also a member of the Gruman (NY) amateur club. He will be greatly missed.

## Atlanta Hamfest Update

### "Vendor response has been steady and beyond expectations"

Several Vendors have signed on for tables at the 2009 Atlanta Hamfest to be held June 6th at Cobb County Jim Miller Park.

"Ham Radio Outlet, AC&DC Electronics, HamWorld Inc., Cedar City Sales, Debco Electronics, Eagle One Antenna, and The Signman of Baton rouge are committed," says John Talipsky, N3ACK, Hamfest Chairman. "And I confident MFJ will be a mid May addition."

Remembered for those great years at the Atlanta Marriot the Atlanta Hamfest has experienced a continued upward trend in participation since it's unstable period of venue changes during the late 90's. With support from other area amateur radio organiza-

tions the staff has been hard at work.

"We are having a really good vendor response," John Talipsky says. So far things are going better than I thought they would have considering the economic outlook and stories of people cutting back in their travels."

Potential volunteers - and any other interested parties - should email John Talipsky at [johnn3ack@comcast.net](mailto:johnn3ack@comcast.net) to volunteer. Also, if you are going to a hamfest, testing session, or club meeting in the coming weeks and would be willing to take some hamfest flyers along please contact John. This is going to be a great year - Get the word out!

## AF4FO to take a break

*(Continued from page 1)*

done it without his endless support. And yours. You've all been terrific. But listen! We have a TON of terrific, capable folks out there (maybe YOU?) who'd do a fabulous job as SM, and I urge you NOMINATE THEM! This term ends on October 1, but nominations are due in early June, so please don't put it off. Get those nominations in ASAP, okay? For full info on how to go about doing that, please see <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/smterms.html> I promise that I'll continue to give this my position my best for the next six months, but then, it'll be someone else's turn. So c'mon, guys and gals, I'm counting on you to come up with some terrific nominees.

## Friday Lunch Bunch moves to new location

If you have not made it out to a Friday Lunch Bunch recently you may not have heard...It moved! The lunch group started many years ago, better known as "The Lunch Bunch," is now meeting at the Steak and Shake on 2736 Cobb Parkway near The Galleria area. Lunch times are 11:30AM to 12:30PM on Fridays. If you would more info or want to see who's who at the lunch check out [www.alramsey.us/LunchSS/Lunch1.html](http://www.alramsey.us/LunchSS/Lunch1.html)

For those of you who work over on

the 85/285 NE side of the perimeter, you also have a lunch option. There is a group of ARC Hams meeting at the Chamblee Bistro in Chamblee. Yes, this is also a recent change of venue. The group was meeting at the El Torrero restaurant over on Peachtree Industrial. The Chamblee Bistro is located along "antique row" near the police station at 5480 Peachtree Rd. The Bistro serves a lunch menu of various sandwiches and chips.

## METRO TESTING SESSIONS

### Athens, GA

1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm

2095 W. Broad Street.

Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA

(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

### Cartersville, GA

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Con-

tact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK

(770) 387-1591

### Braselton, GA

1st Sunday 2:00 p.m. Odd-numbered months

Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53

Contact: Mike Gee W9QO – 706-824-0043 or

w9qo@arrl.net Fee \$10

Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society/VEC

### Gainesville, GA

1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months

Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd

Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP

(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net

### Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am

at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson

Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy. Contact: OTIS

MURPHY W4OY

(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

### Peachtree City, GA

1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and

the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at

the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Con-

tact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

### Snellville, GA

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm

at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.

Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA

(770) 498-7759

### Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC

Alford Memorial Radio Club

2nd Saturday of ODD-months at 8:30 am

Stone Mountain United Methodist Church,

5312 W. Mountain St.

Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN

(770) 978 3179 Email: bvarone@juno.com

### Marietta, GA CAVEC

Central America VEC

3rd Saturday of month at 9:00AM

Marietta First United Methodist Church

56 Whitlock Avenue

Contact: David Still WB4RRD

wb4rrd@gmail.com

### Lawrenceville, GA

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

3rd Sunday of each month, 3-5PM

Gwinnett Public Library—Five Forks Branch

2780 Five Forks Trickum Rd Lawrenceville GA

### Atlanta, GA

Georgia Tech ARC & The Atlanta Radio Club

4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm GATECH

cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html

## Strange antennas and QRP take center stage Thursday

The next meeting of the Atlanta Radio Club will be held May 7.

Two excellent programs are on the agenda:

1. "2009 Strange Antenna Challenge" by Arnold Solomon, KC4ZUA and/or Bill Perkins, KB4KFT. Have you ever used a ladder, lawn chair or Samurai sword as an antenna? Or built an antenna out of rat mesh or bamboo? Or PVC? Come listen to Arnold and/or Bill talk about the Challenge, where the only kind of antenna you can't use is one made out of wire. Learn about the ARC's plans for an Atlanta event as well as how you can participate on your own. <http://www.n0ew.org/k0s/>
2. "Going Green With QRP" by Rich Arland, K7SZ, author of the ARRL book "Low Power Communication --

The Art and Science of QRP". Rich Arland became a licensed Amateur Radio operator in 1963. He also holds an FCC General Radiotelephone Operator's License. Rich has authored many articles for ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, and its

monthly journal, QST. He is an avid low-power radio operator and emergency communication volunteer. His newest volume of QRP information is the culmination of many months of research, interviews, antenna experimentation and building projects.

### UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

**6 JUNE** Georgia State Convention Atlanta Radio Club W4DOC  
[www.atlantahamfest.com](http://www.atlantahamfest.com) **Talk-In:** 146.820 (PL 146.2)

**Sunday Night Net:** All amateurs are invited to check into the Sunday Night Net at 8:00 PM on the 146.82 repeater. This net features comments from all check-ins, club news from club officers and committee chairpersons, a swap shop, and a discussion topic, if requested. 224.34 and 444.825 are normally linked in as well for the Sunday Night Net.

## Second Sunday Tech Session goes outdoors in May

This month we will not be holding a class room session but a real field outing, a typical day in the park. We will

**Bill Perkins**  
**KB4KFT**

begin setting up around 1pm at Tanyard Creek Park on Collier Road near Peachtree Road in Atlanta - that is south and west of Piedmont Hospital and between Northside Drive and Peachtree Road - at the bottom of the hill. (If you get on Collier from either road and go up hill you either are going the wrong way or have just passed the park.)

The goal is to put some stations on the air and play radio for a few hours. This is not as elaborate as a field day so bring your own chair and hang out for a while. Anyone who

wants to watch can watch, anyone who wants a chance to operate will get a chance to operate.

We will start setting up around 1pm and will be in the park till at least the end of the Atlanta Radio Club Sunday Night net. In fact, since that is N4BFR's night he may DO the net from the park. Talk in will be on the Atlanta Radio Club repeater (146.820 - PL 146.2) and most of us monitor 146.520 as well. Talk in usually fizzles out about 2:30pm so there may not be a talk-in after that - everybody will be busy doing radio stuff.

Some snacks and soft drinks will be provided. There are some fast food places near-by. During previous outings at this park food runs have been known to happen.

Due to the time of day we will

probably concentrate on 20 and 40 meter, and maybe 10 meter if that band shows any activity at all. Last time we ended up building some 2 meter dipoles out of electric fence wire and little pieces of wood... worked just fine. This time I want to play with VHF a bit and may be building a 6meter dipole to deploy later at home.

If you have a radio or gear you want to try or show off, bring it on. Got an antenna you want to try out, bring it and we'll try it out. Want to learn about HF operation, come learn. This would be a good opportunity for newly minted Technicians to get a taste of HF and well seasoned HF hams to show off.

Showing off is OK.

## Meeting...

*(Continued from page 3)*

Please notify our Activities Director, Rob Osattin, KI4UTY if you have any ideas for a presentation at this or any other meeting.

The ARC has a long history of service to the Atlanta area ham community and to the public. Help us continue the tradition by giving us your feedback.

See you Thursday, May 7.

### Address:

Red Cross Metro Atlanta Chapter  
Headquarters  
1955 Monroe Drive NE  
Atlanta, GA 30324

## W4DOC REPEATER NEWS & NOTES

All three repeaters require a CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz.

146.820 (-) (IRLP Node 4550) 224.340 (-) 444.825 (+) (IRLP Node 5070)

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/ Peachtree City during inclement weather.

D-Star Repeaters (Bank of America Tower)

145.350 (-0.6 MHz) W4DOC C 444.600 (+5.0 MHz) W4DOC B

1282.60 (-12 MHz) W4DOC A 1297.625 (Data) W4DOC D

D-Star on Stone Mountain (Joint ARC/GA ARES)

145.960 (+2.5 MHz) WX4GPB C 444.700 (+5.0 MHz) WX4GPB B

1282.700 (-12 MHz) WX4GPB A 1297.125 (Data) WX4GPB D

### The Signman of Baton Rouge



The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a Silver background with blue letters and the Club Logo in gold. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO, makes this name tag unique.

**Go online to order...Ask for the Atlanta ARC badge!**

PO Box 84107  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4107 USA  
(225) 757-1545 Phone  
225-208-1545 Fax  
Toll-Free 877-SIGNMAN  
[Http://thesignman.com](http://thesignman.com)





## D-STAR is technology - It's all new from the ground up.

Atlanta has seven D-STAR repeaters. There are at least 2 more planned, but not yet deployed. Per capita, that's likely the highest density D-STAR coverage anywhere. Any way you slice it, Atlanta is a big place on the D-STAR map. And the Atlanta Radio Club is right in the middle of it all. Two of the seven D-STAR repeaters are operated by the ARC. The Atlanta area also has a lot of D-STAR talent.



**Bert Bruner**  
**KE4FOV**

With all this D-STAR activity going on, it just seemed like we ought to have a D-STAR column in the Atlanta Ham. Well, now we do.

Every month, I will bring news and information about D-STAR in Atlanta. This is an exciting new technology that's in a constant state of growth and change so there will be no shortage of things to write about. But let's make it a little interactive too. Please send me email with questions and information that you think would be of interest to other hams. (You can reach me at [KE4FOV@Bruner.us](mailto:KE4FOV@Bruner.us))

Now, I know some of you are saying, "What the heck is D-STAR anyway?" That's a good question and a good starting point.

The term D-STAR means "Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio". Let's look at it word by word. D-STAR is digital – all the way. The mode is Digital Voice or DV. Your voice is converted to a stream of bits. The voice stream is transmitted along with a stream of text. Your callsign, the callsign of the receiving station and some routing information is also included. And there's an all data mode too.

D-STAR is smart. Well, the smart is a matter of opinion, but it makes

Over the coming months, we'll talk about:

- The basics of how to get started
- How to program your radio
- What software is available to add function and ease of use
- What resources are available on the web
- What repeaters are available where
- How to link repeaters
- How D-STAR repeaters and gateways work
- What Nets and Reflectors are available
- Who in the ARC and other places can help

for a good acronym.

D-STAR is technology. It's all new from the ground up. Well, I guess RF is RF and IP (Internet Protocol) is IP, but it's all put together in a new way with lots of other things added in like routing between repeaters and on the fly repeater linking.

D-STAR is Amateur Radio. Made for chatting and for Emergency Communication; with lots of ways to add things on to increase capabilities –

things like D-Rats, D-PLUS, [dstarusers.org](http://dstarusers.org).

D-STAR is a foundation on which to build. And most of all D-Star is fun!

Lots of other things will be discussed too. Let me know what you want. I'll be posting these articles as well as other resources on the web at <http://KE4FOV.com>.

## ARC members get together for GA QSO Party at Red Cross HQ

About 15-20 Atlanta Hams were on hand to operate the GA QSO Party contest from the Red Cross HQ parking lot. Bill Perkins, KB4KFT, was responsible for organizing the event and was encouraged by the participation by ARC members. Bill thought this would be a good chance to practice for the possibility of The Atlanta Radio Club putting on its own Field Day in June. There were a couple of radios on hand that were in constant use. All in all it was considered a success. We had only one busted chin and one car window blown out, but you'll have to make the upcoming Thursday regular club meeting for the details of really happened. The Atlanta Radio Club also put together a GOTA station for anyone wanting to experience radio. Visitors could get on the air, license or not.



## By-Laws continued...

(Continued from page 1)

Membership types have been simplified. We attempted to take the plethora of memberships and figure out what they really meant. In the end it became clear what the designers were getting at was voting memberships and non-voting memberships. That is how we have re-organized them. Put "Student", "Associates" and other types within those two broad categories and every possibility is covered.

We also moved definitions of memberships into an appendix. We can add new types as needed without the need for a "constitutional convention". Dues and fees have also been moved to an appendix as well to make it easier for the club to institute new services as needed. Changes would still require a vote of club membership to approve, but such changes would be more managerial than constitutional.

Old by-laws mandate club administrators notify members via US Post Office first class mail in certain cases. In pre-Internet days of \$.05 postage a good option, about the only option then. Now almost everyone has Internet and postage rates are about ten times more, now US first class mail is about the WORST way to do things.

New provisions allow the club to use Yahoo group messages, email or web page posting instead. Our thinking is the easier it is for club managers to inform members, and the easier it is for members to directly reach their managers, the better it is for everyone.

Other changes involve elections, streamlining the nominating and election committee processes.

The By-Laws Committee has changed over the months. I'd like to thank Charles Golsen and Marianne Howell for getting things started. Hugh Howell and Dick Bentley for sharing their insights into various functions of the club over the years. George Olive and Jim Reed for the grunt work of digging through layers and layers of

verbiage. And all the other folks who have chimed in a bit here and a bit there: Penn (no last name needed), David Schiff, Michael Miller, Chris Fowler, and Bert Bruner and Rob Osattin.

The new by-laws will be posted to the files section of the Yahoo group and a notice sent to all users on how to find them. We need to discuss them

at the next club meeting (May 7th) and, if acceptable, vote adopt the changes before or during our June meeting. If not acceptable then the quicker we can iron out what needs ironing the better. The new rules use June as the launch of the election "season" and we'd like to be under the new rules before the next election.

## 75, 50 and 25 Years Ago in Atlanta Radio Club history

Readers of QST magazine are familiar with their "75, 50, and 25 Years Ago" page, where they list items of interest from past issues.

Due to gaps in the Atlanta Radio Club's newsletter archive, my numbers aren't quite as even as the ARRL's, but here are some excerpts from previous May issues of the Atlanta Ham:

May 1947

ENGINEERS TO SPEAK ON EXPERIMENTS

WGST's chief engineer Ben Akerman along with engineers Bob Minton and Ivan Miles will address the June meeting of the Atlanta Radio Club. Subject of the talk will be their FM experiments, and movies and color slides of the equipment and location will be shown.

May 1975

Will VHF Mountain Topping be replaced by DXpeditions to remote islands? Hopefully not. There is an even better and more exciting DX adventure for the VHFer than either of these: SATELLITE DX via OSCAR! Tune 10 or 2 meters and listen. You'll hear weak readable signals (they get stronger) SSB, CW, RTTY, and even ATV. Typical copy is a VE3 working a W6, a VE8 calling CQ OSCAR, W1JM working W6OAL, DK4QER working K4TI and K4JID or a JA3 in QSO with a K4.

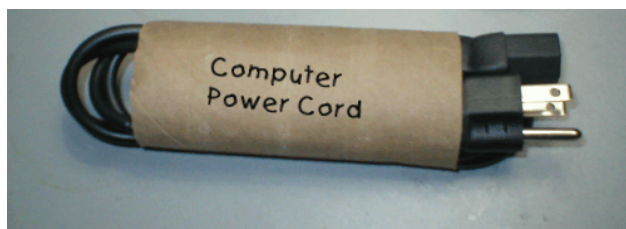
May 1990

Sharon Foster (KM4IH) regretfully read a letter from Johnny Beckman (W4BTX) resigning as Repeater Trustee and expressed her appreciation and thanks for his trusteeship. Byron Lindsey (W4BIW) agreed to fill the breach.

Submitted by: George Lane KI4DSO - ARC Secretary & Historian

## Have you ever wondered what you could do with an empty toilet paper roll?

Can't find that twisty thingie or that perfect zip tie? Charles Golsen, W4CHG came up with a suggestion...grab an empty toilet paper roll. The nice thing about it - you can use the cardboard roll as a label also!



# ATLANTA HAMFEST 2009

Sponsored by: ARRL  
and The Atlanta Radio Club  
W4DOC

Gates Open: 8:00AM—3:00PM Admission: \$5 (Under 18 Free) Tailgate Set-Up : 6:30 AM Saturday



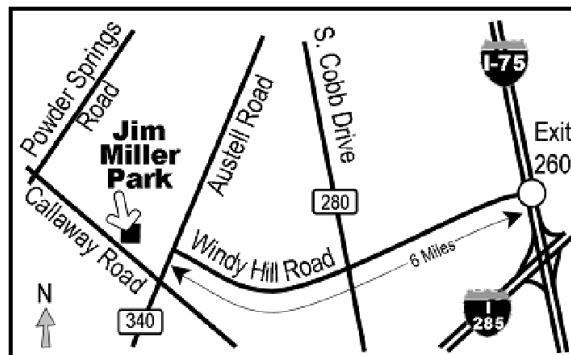
◆ DEALERS ◆ FLEA MARKET ◆ TAILGATING ◆ PRIZES  
◆ FORUMS ◆ FCC EXAMS ◆ FOOD ◆ RV & CAMPING

## SATURDAY JUNE 6TH

### Jim Miller Park, Cobb Co.

For more info:  
John Talipsky, N3ACK,  
385 Madison Chase Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
770-995-6446 or 678-618-2190  
Email: johnn3ack@comcast.net

[www.atlantahamfest.com](http://www.atlantahamfest.com)



## ARC Field Day plans taking shape for June 2009

How long has it been since the Atlanta Radio Club celebrated Field Day? How about this year? I don't think we are going to win any prizes,

**Bill Perkins**  
**KB4KFT**

or that we can really compete head-to-head with the dedicated contest oriented clubs. But we can set up and have some fun, right? Maybe not for the entire 24+ hours but at least for Saturday into Saturday evening.

I have talked with Andrew Carter (KI4SSU) of the Georgia Tech Amateur Radio Club about combining forces for Field Day 2009. If the logistics work out we could operate from a big grassy field near the Van Leer Building - the same building where testing sessions are held. Since GTARC and ARC the two oldest clubs in the state it seems fitting for the two

clubs to work together and Field Day is a good place to start.

If the logistics do not work out for a GTARC/ARC event on campus then we may be able to use the parking lot of the Red Cross building on Monroe, same building where we have our regular meetings. This past Georgia QSO party Saturday we proved this location is not only good but very good. Concerns about new construction blocking RF turned out to be groundless. While it is an "RF rich environment" we did not hear much in the way of QRM on the ham bands. The Red Cross people will be able to tell us the first of June if that lot will be available on Field Day Saturday. If not we'll find another suitable place.

If you would be interested in getting involved in Field Day activity please let us know. You can contact Rob Osattin (Activities Director) at KI4UTY@arrl.net or post a message to the ARC Yahoo group and let us know.



Tyler K4HNN does a little slow scan during the recent Atlanta Radio Club GA QSO Party outing

Photo: Jim Reed N4BFR

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**The Atlanta Radio Club, Inc.**  
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Membership  
See contact info above

**John Talipsky Jr, N3ACK**

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**John Talipsky Sr, KI4Y**

Newsletter  
678-985-1316  
john@talipsky.com

**MEETING NOTICE - THURS MAY 7, 2009**



**TH F6A**



Finally, the Amateur Handheld that everyone has been waiting for, the New Kenwood TH-F6A. The TH-F6A is a 144/220/440 MHz transceiver/receiver with dual-channel RX capability in a compact and powerful design. The first Tri-Band HT with 3 bands you can operate EVERY DAY! The TH-F6A boasts a list of unique features the competition is still scratching their heads over.

**KENWOOD**  
Listen to the Future